

Veteran Army Colonel Takes Over at OFDAP

Veteran of 29 years army service, Col. Joel G. Holmes has assumed active duty as field director of ammunition plants, with headquarters located at the Joliet Arsenal.

Col. Holmes replaces Col. R. R. Klanderman, who held the position for the past 10 months, having succeeded Col T. C. Gerber, original field director, and first commanding officer of both KOW and EOP. Col. Klanderman has been assigned new duties in Washington.

BORN IN Forked River, N. J., on Aug. 24, 1892, Col. Holmes attended Pennington seminary, Trenton, N. J., for two years and Lafayette college for two years. In June, 1933, he received an appointment to the U. S. Military academy, completing his training there April 20, 1917. In 1935, he was graduated from the army industrial college and also attended the field officer's course of the chemical warfare school the same year.

He received his commission as a second lieutenant, coast artillery corps, on April 20, 1917. He won his promotion to first lieutenant on May 15, 1917, and three years later was elevated to captaincy. On Feb. 26, 1923, he was transferred to the ordnance department, being promoted to major on Oct. 19, 1932, in that branch. While serving in the ordnance department he won his promotion to Lieutenant colonel on July 1, 1940, and 18

months later became a full colonel.

DURING World War I, Col. Holmes served for 10 months in France as adjutant in an anti-aircraft battalion. During World War II he went to England in May, 1943, and subsequently served thruout the European theater of operations for 28 months. On his foreign duty tour, he served as deputy chief of ordnance for the European theater of operations.

Col. Holmes has been awarded the Legion of Merit, the Soldier's medal for gallantry, the Bronze Star medal for bravery, and the army commendation ribbon. He also wears two bronze battle stars for the Normandy and Northern France campaigns.

Prior to being assigned to overseas duty, Col. Holmes served in the ammunition divi-

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sion, chief of ordnance, in the loading and assembling section from 1940 to 1942. Included in his responsibilities while in this office were the location and design of ammunition plants, which background affords Col. Holmes a thoro knowledge of his new assignment as director of all ammunition plants in the United States.